



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

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Grand Canyon News Release

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Grand Canyon National Park Accepting Lottery Applications for Noncommercial Colorado River Permits

Grand Canyon, AZ – The National Park Service (NPS) is now accepting applications for noncommercial river trip permits to raft the Colorado River through Grand Canyon National Park. Applications will be accepted through October 21, 2006. Anyone who is interested may apply online through the newly established weighted lottery. A total of 197 permits will be awarded for 12 to 25 day river trips on the Colorado River through Grand Canyon. To access the website, start from the park's main webpage at www.nps.gov/grca and select "River Permits" then "Weighted Lottery".

The weighted lottery was selected as the new permit system after a multi-year planning process completed earlier this year. It replaces the former waitlist system. Individuals who are 18 years or older may apply. All 197 trips are for specific launch dates within calendar year 2007. Noncommercial river trips must be self-guided, and technical whitewater experience is mandatory on each trip. Individuals may participate on a maximum of one river trip per year (commercial or non-commercial). Beginning in 2008, the lottery will be held earlier in the year to provide more time for permittees to prepare for trips. By 2012 the National Park Service will award as many as 503 trips per year through the lottery.

People interested in guided river trips should not apply through the lottery but instead request space on a commercial trip. A list of commercial companies offering guided trips can be found by visiting www.nps.gov/grca then selecting “river permits” then “3 to 18 day commercial trips”. For more information about the 2007 weighted lottery, please visit the Grand Canyon National Park website at www.nps.gov/grca or contact the river permits office at 1-800-959-9164 or 928-638-7884.

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